

Performance Notes

I was visiting about this commission and the process of composition with the students at Farmington Middle School East when one of them suggested I write a “cowboy western.” The idea certainly seemed interesting, so I began by writing a series of short episodes describing what might occupy a character like the Cowboy Kid during the course of a “normal” day. Then I composed music in a broad pastiche style, much like one might hear in the soundtrack to a movie or cartoon, to represent each of the episodes and create *The Further Adventures of the Cowboy Kid and His Trusty Sidekick Carlos*.

This piece is meant to be fun! Conductors and performers should feel free to incorporate costumes, actors, original film clips or any other means to share the story with the audience during the performance. I would love to hear and see the results of your creativity!

- Scene 1: The Cowboy Kid rides through the sleepy town of Cowboy City.
- Scene 2: A barn dance on a farm outside town. The Cowboy Kid looks across the floor and sees the lovely and talented Miss Annabelle. They dance together, until Carlos runs into the barn to announce that Dylan the Villain has escaped from jail and headed to Mexico.
- Scene 3: The Cowboy Kid and His Trusty Sidekick Carlos ride through a quiet and beautiful Mexican village, where they hear music coming from the local cantina.
- Scene 4: Dylan the Villain steps out into the road and challenges the Cowboy Kid to a duel. In a dastardly move, Dylan the Villain turns around and tries to fire his gun before the count is finished, but fortunately nothing happens — he has forgotten to load his gun! The Cowboy Kid and His Trusty Sidekick Carlos quickly apprehend Dylan the Villain.
- Scene 5: The Cowboy Kid and His Trusty Sidekick Carlos return triumphantly to Cowboy City, where they are greeted with big cheers and given a parade. Our heroes have saved the day once again!

The Further Adventures of the Cowboy Kid and His Trusty Sidekick Carlos was commissioned by the Farmington (Minn.) Middle School East 7th Grade Band, Craig Melhorn, conductor. The piece was premiered at Farmington Middle School East in Farmington, Minn., on 26 and 27 April 2004.

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